



1962 THE AMAZING



SPIDER-MAN

#18



MACKIE
BYRNE
ROMITA



THE SUNFLOWER DINER, IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

...THINGS COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE THAN THEY ALREADY ARE!

I'VE GOT NO MONEY, NO APARTMENT, NO REAL JOB...

...THESE RUBBER GLOVES ARE LEAKING, I'M STARVING AND THE MANAGER WON'T EVEN FEED ME --



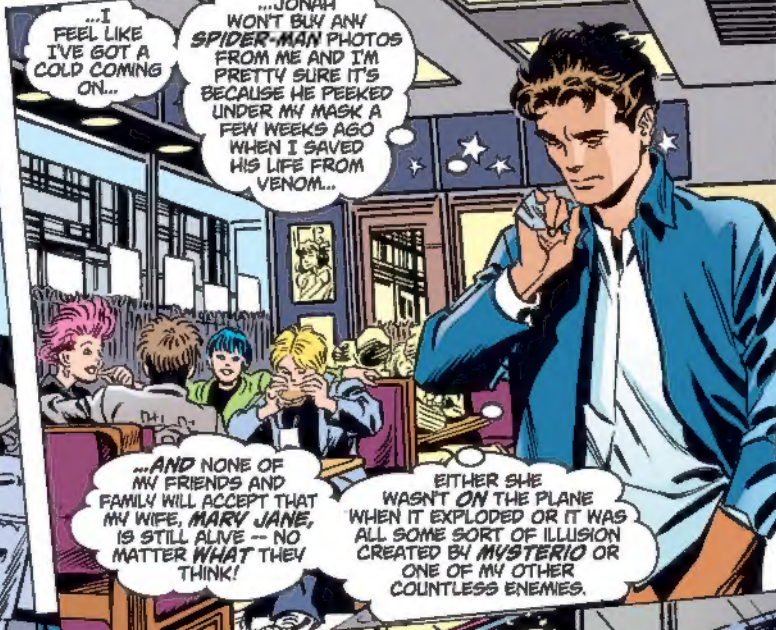
RAUL SAYS YOU CAN HAVE THE LEFTOVERS, PARKER.

THANKS... I'LL PASS.



VENOM IS OUT THERE TRYING TO KILL OFF ALL OF THE SINISTER SIX...

...AND THEY'VE SPLIT BUT ARE STILL CAUSING MISCHIEF...



...I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOT A COLD COMING ON...

...JONAH WON'T BUY ANY SPIDER-MAN PHOTOS FROM ME AND I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S BECAUSE HE PEEKED UNDER MY MASK A FEW WEEKS AGO WHEN I SAVED HIS LIFE FROM VENOM...

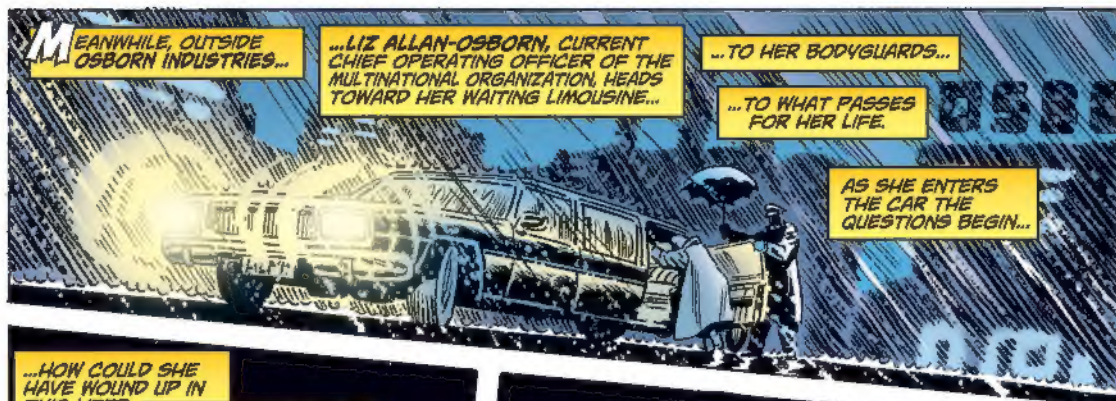
...AND NONE OF MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WILL ACCEPT THAT MY WIFE, MARY JANE, IS STILL ALIVE -- NO MATTER WHAT THEY THINK!

EITHER SHE WASN'T ON THE PLANE WHEN IT EXPLODED OR IT WAS ALL SOME SORT OF ILLUSION CREATED BY MYSTERY OR ONE OF MY OTHER COUNTLESS ENEMIES.



SO I KNOW THINGS HAVE GOT TO START TURNING AROUND FROM HERE.

THEY'VE GOT TO.



MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE OSBORN INDUSTRIES...

...LIZ ALLAN-OSBORN, CURRENT CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF THE MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATION, HEADS TOWARD HER WAITING LIMOUSINE...

...TO HER BODYGUARDS...

...TO WHAT PASSES FOR HER LIFE.

AS SHE ENTERS THE CAR THE QUESTIONS BEGIN...

...HOW COULD SHE HAVE WOUND UP IN THIS LIFE?

A LIFE SHADOWED BY THE OSBORN LEGACY.

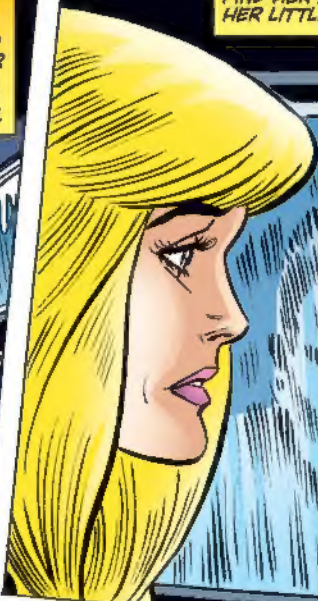
A LEGACY PASSED FROM NORMAN TO HER LATE HUSBAND HARRY, FROM FATHER TO SON, SHE LIVES IN CONSTANT FEAR OF NORMAN'S RETURN.



RUNNING IS FUTILE. NORMAN WOULD ALWAYS FIND HER AND HIS SOLE HEIR, HIS GRANDSON, HER LITTLE NORMIE.

ONCE SHE WAS SO IN LOVE WITH HARRY. AND NOW...

SHE CURSES THE DAY SHE MARRIED HIM AND GAVE HIS FATHER ANOTHER POTENTIAL SOUL TO CORRUPT.



CURSES THE DAY THE GREEN GOBLIN ENTERED HER LIFE.

BUT LIZ KNOWS SHE CAN'T ALLOW THESE THOUGHTS TO STAY WITH HER FOR TOO LONG.

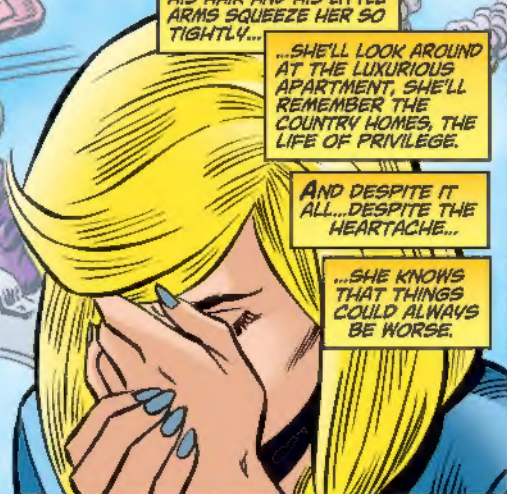
SOON SHE'LL BE HOME, NORMIE WILL JUMP INTO HER ARMS...

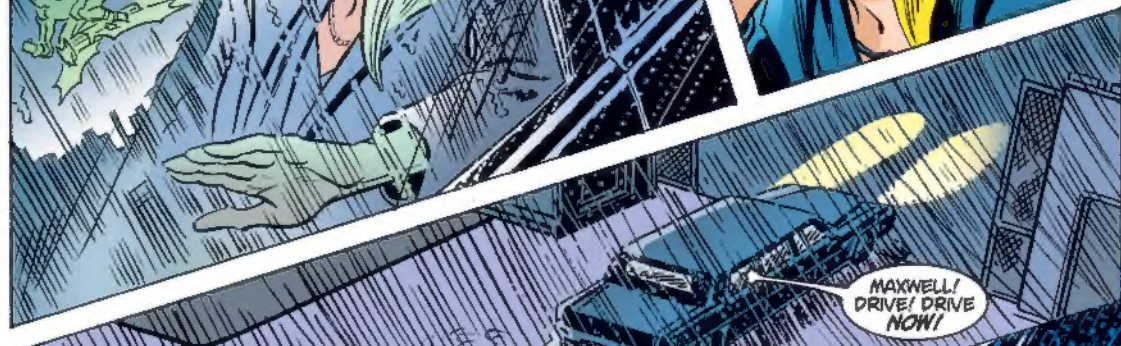
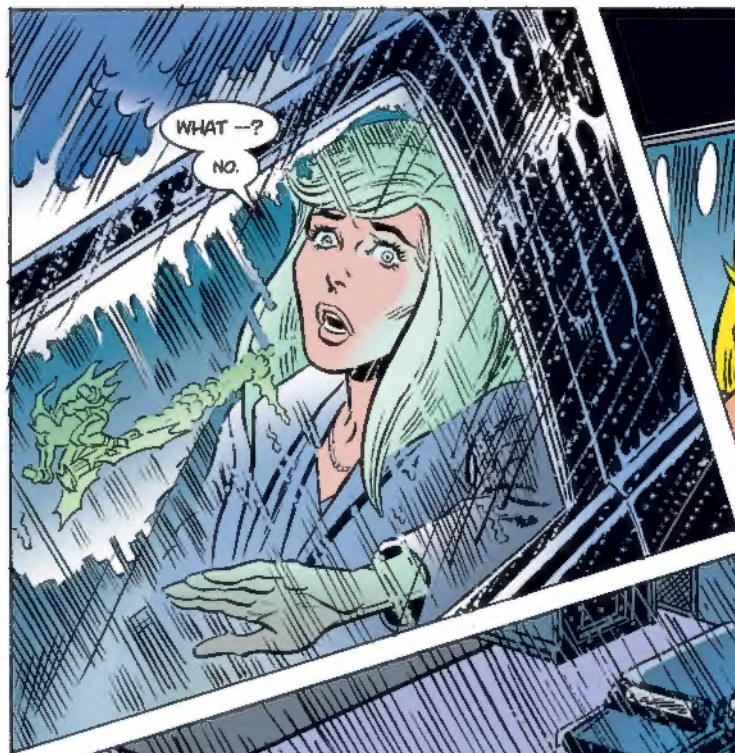
...AND, AS SHE SMELLS HIS HAIR AND HIS LITTLE ARMS SQUEEZE HER SO TIGHTLY...

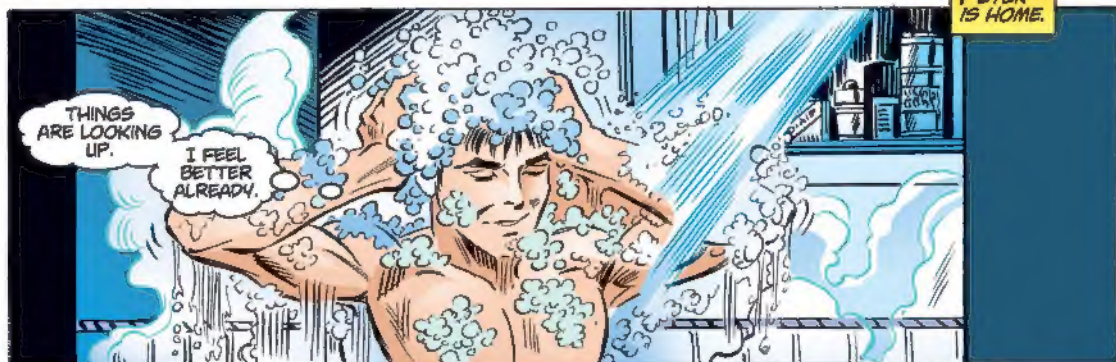
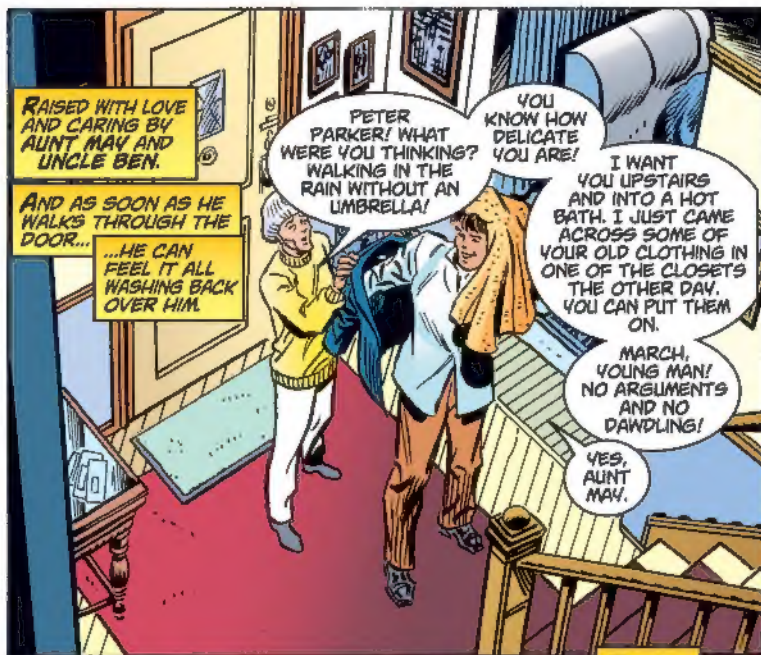
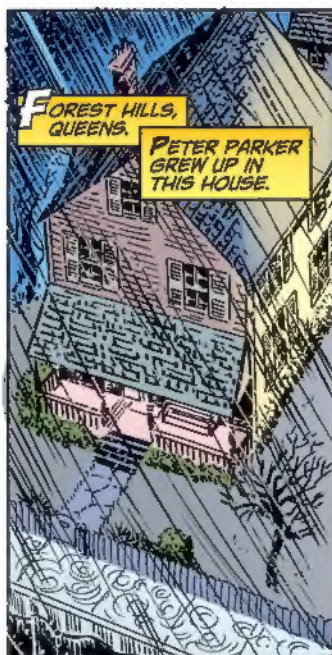
...SHE'LL LOOK AROUND AT THE LUXURIOUS APARTMENT, SHE'LL REMEMBER THE COUNTRY HOMES, THE LIFE OF PRIVILEGE.

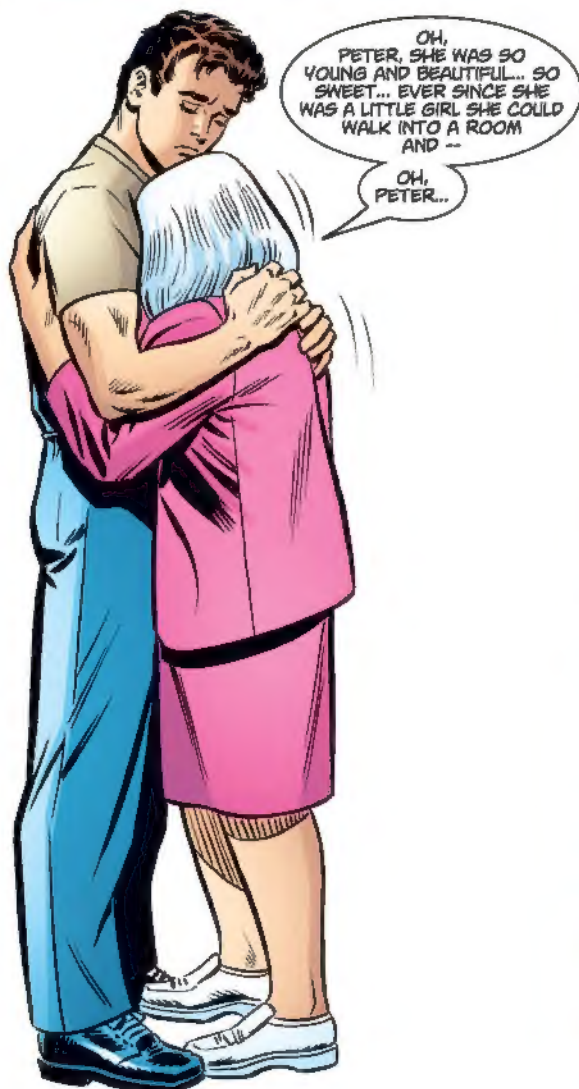
AND DESPITE IT ALL...DESPITE THE HEARTACHE...

...SHE KNOWS THAT THINGS COULD ALWAYS BE WORSE.













1 HE F.D.R. DRIVE, ON
MANHATTAN'S UPPER
EAST SIDE...

OH, MS.
OSBORN...

...WE'VE
GOT TO
TALK!

WELL, AT
LEAST YOU
STOPPED
RUNNING.

IT'S REALLY
NOT AS EASY
TO STAY UP ON ONE OF
THESE GOBLIN GLIDERS
AS SOME HAVE MADE
IT LOOK.

SO... HOW
ABOUT WE JUST
TALK AND WE CAN
BOTH GET THE
ANSWERS WE
NEED?



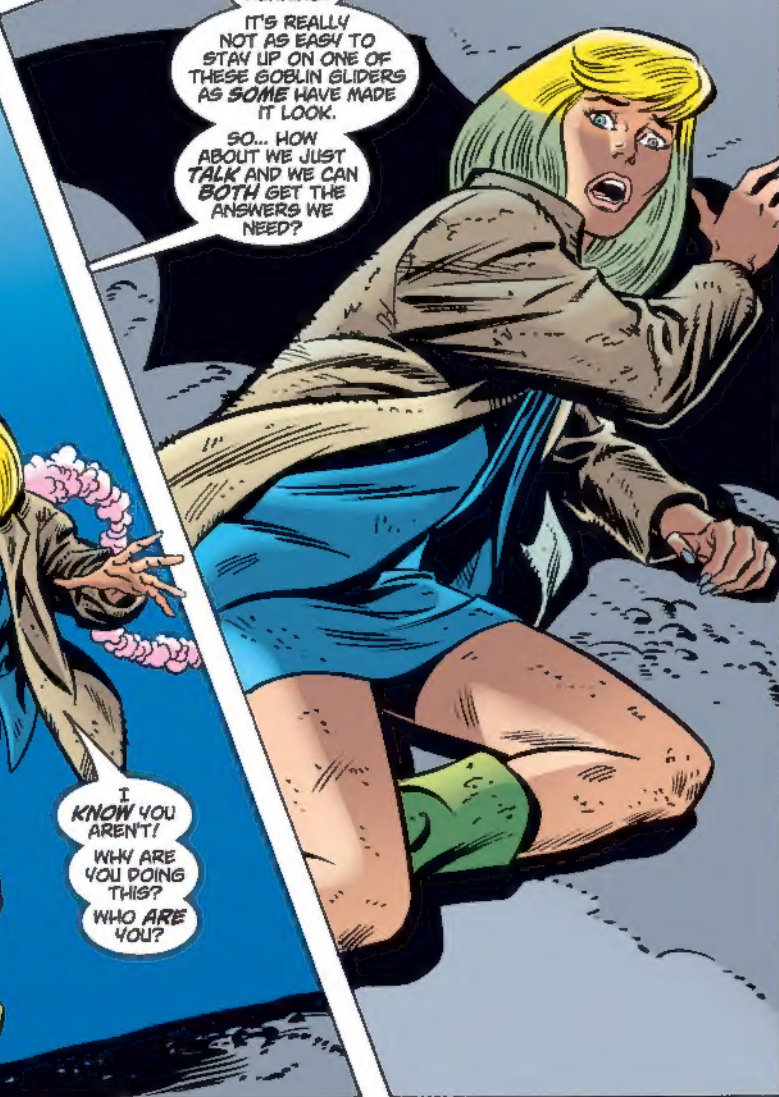
NO.

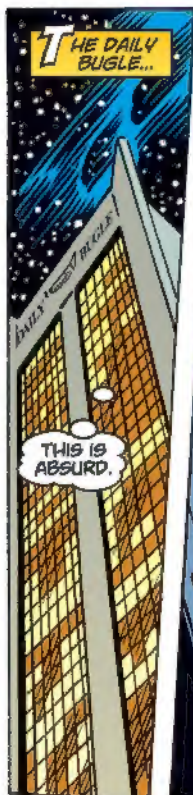
GET
AWAY!

LEAVE ME
ALONE!

YOU'RE
NOT HIM!

I
KNOW YOU
AREN'T!
WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS?
WHO ARE
YOU?







I APPRECIATE THAT, ROBBIE, AND THE MONEY IS GOING TO HELP, BUT...

...IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN GET ME BACK TO WORK?

GEE, PETER... I'LL ASK AROUND, BUT RIGHT NOW... HERE... THE BUDGET... CIRCULATION IS DOWN -

YEAH! NICE TALKING TO YOU TOO, DAD! I JUST LOVE THESE FATHER AND SON CHATS WE HAVE.



I'M SORRY, ROBBIE. I SHOULDN'T HAVE JUST --

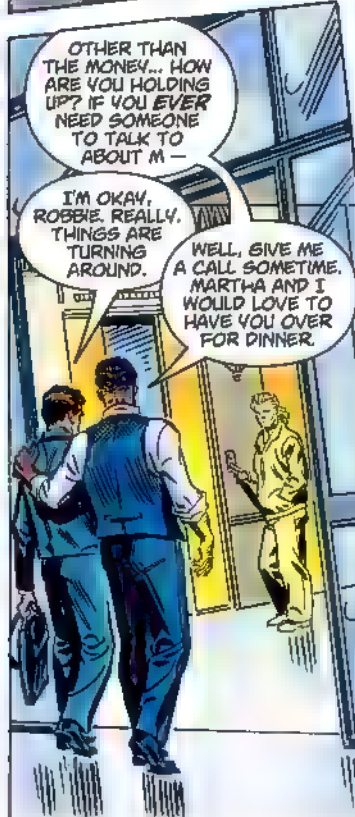
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT RANDY IS A GROWN-UP... OR HE SHOULD BE.



BUT ABOUT YOU... MAYBE IF YOU COULD TURN SOME FREELANCE ASSIGNMENTS IN THAT DIDN'T INVOLVE SPIDER-MAN...

I UNDERSTAND, ROBBIE. THANKS

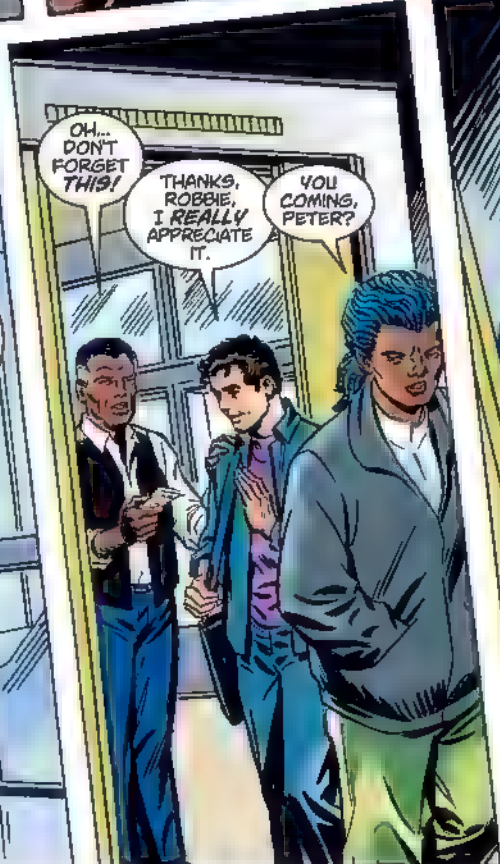
I THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU TO DIVERSIFY ANYWAY.



OTHER THAN THE MONEY... HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP? IF YOU EVER NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO ABOUT M -

I'M OKAY, ROBBIE. REALLY. THINGS ARE TURNING AROUND.

WELL, GIVE ME A CALL SOMETIME. MARTHA AND I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU OVER FOR DINNER.

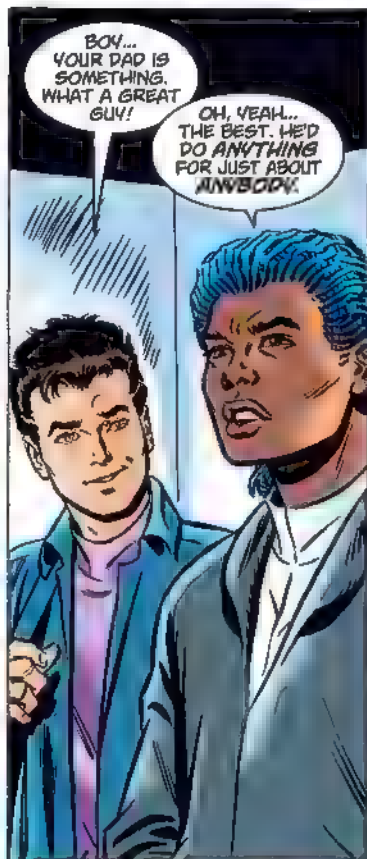


OH... DON'T FORGET THIS!

THANKS, ROBBIE, I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

YOU COMING, PETER?





BOY...
YOUR DAD IS
SOMETHING.
WHAT A GREAT
GUY!

OH, YEAH...
THE BEST. HE'D
DO ANYTHING
FOR JUST ABOUT
ANYBODY.



RANDY... IT'S NONE OF MY
BUSINESS, AND I KNOW
WE'VE NEVER BEEN
REAL TIGHT, BUT IS
EVERYTHING OKAY?
DID I SAY ANYTHING
TO --

NAH. SORRY,
PETER. IT'S NOT
YOU IT'S JUST THINGS
BETWEEN ME AND
MY DAD. THEY'RE
NOT SO GREAT
RIGHT NOW.

I'M A
DISAPPOINTMENT
TO THE GREAT JOE
ROBERTSON. BASTION OF
JOURNALISTIC
INTEGRITY.

I MARRIED TOO
YOUNG, DIVORCED, AND
NOW I'VE DECIDED TO TRY
AND MAKE IT AS AN ACTOR.



THINGS ARE A LITTLE TIGHT RIGHT
NOW AND HE'S IN NO MOOD TO
CUT ME SOME SLACK

SINK OR SWIM...
PICK YOURSELF UP BY
YOUR OWN BOOTSTRAPS...
THAT KIND OF
THING!

YOU
FEEL LIKE
GRABBING A
CUP OF COFFEE
AND TALKING
ABOUT IT?



A FEW MINUTES
LATER...

LISTEN TO ME
WHINE.

I'M
SORRY, PETER.
YOU ARE THE LAST
PERSON I SHOULD
BE COMPLAINING
TO ABOUT MY
LIFE.



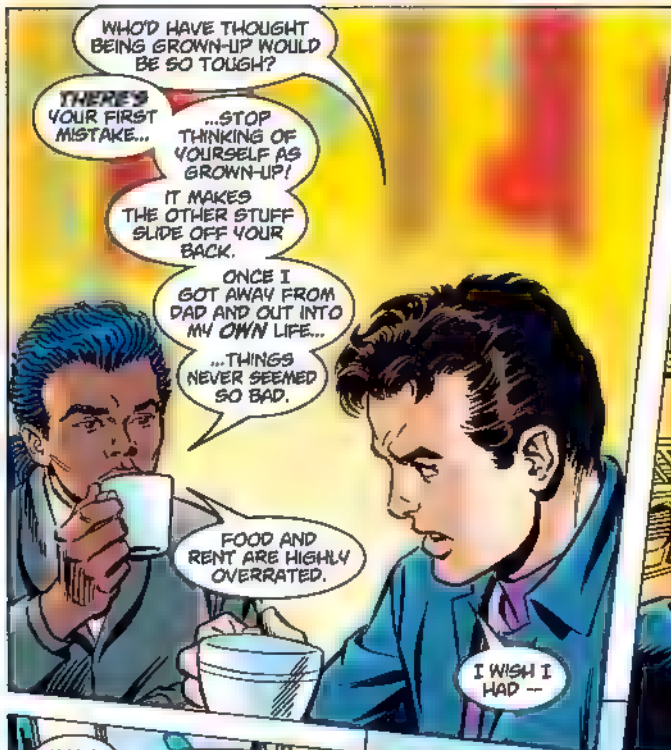
HOW YOU
DOING?

I HEARD
ABOUT MJ... I'M
REALLY SORRY,
MAN.

SHE WAS
ONE SPECIAL
LADY

YEAH...
SHE IS.





WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT BEING GROWN-UP WOULD BE SO TOUGH?

THERE'S YOUR FIRST MISTAKE...

...STOP THINKING OF YOURSELF AS GROWN-UP!

IT MAKES THE OTHER STUFF SLIDE OFF YOUR BACK.

ONCE I GOT AWAY FROM DAD AND OUT INTO MY OWN LIFE...

...THINGS NEVER SEEMED SO BAD.

FOOD AND RENT ARE HIGHLY OVERRATED.

I WISH I HAD --



PETER!

SOMEONE THOUGHT HE SAW YOU COMING IN HERE.

YOU DO STILL HAVE A CAMERA?



YEAH, BETTY.

THEN WE'VE GOT AN ASSIGNMENT. I COULD'VE DONE IT MYSELF, BUT I THOUGHT...

ANYWAY, THE GREEN GOBLIN APPEARS TO BE BACK IN TOWN... HE'S AFTER LIZ OSBORN... AND WE'RE ALREADY BEHIND THE CURVE.



THE GOBLIN?

HE ALWAYS COMES BACK TO HAUNT ME.

SWEN... HE TOOK HER AWAY FROM ME... AND IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S TRIED TO TAKE EVERYTHING ELSE FROM ME EVER SINCE.

WAIT! MARY JANE! COULD HE HAVE --? NO!

I'VE GOT
TO SEE HIM!
I'VE GOT TO
KNOW!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN
THE SHADOW OF THE
59TH STREET BRIDGE...

LIZ!
LIZ
OSBORN!

DO YOU SEE
WHAT YOU'RE CAUSING?
ALL THESE POLICE... ALL
THIS UNNECESSARY
DESTRUCTION!

DO YOU
REALLY WANT
AN INNOCENT
LIFE ON YOUR
HANDS?

I
KNOW I
DON'T!
STOP
RUNNING...
...AND
COME TO
ME!
IT WILL
BE QUICK AND
PAINLESS!





NO... NO...
NO!

LEAVE
ME ALONE...
GET OUT OF
MY LIFE!

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
YOU WANT OR
NEED!



I DON'T
CARE!



THERE HE
IS, BUT...

...THERE'S
SOMETHING
NOT QUITE
RIGHT.

...SOMETHING
ABOUT THE WAY
HE'S MOVING...
LOOKS LIKE HE'S
REALLY HAVING TO
WORK TO STAY UP
ON THE GOBLIN
GLIDER.



HE'S GOT
NONE OF NORMAN'S
CONFIDENCE AND
STRENGTH.

IT
CAN'T BE
HARRY,
BUT...

...I DID JUST
RUN INTO HARRY'S
HOLOGRAPHIC
GHOST.

* See Amazing
Spider-Man 2000
-- Spooky Ralf.

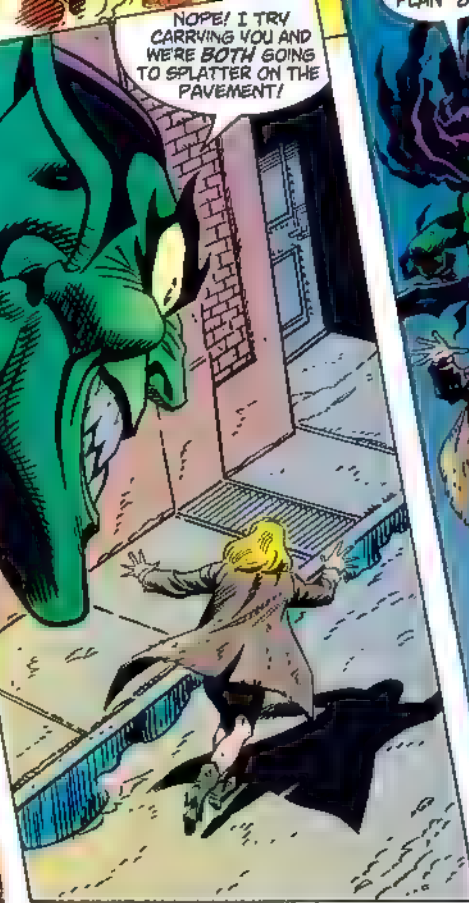
MAYBE THIS IS ALL
CONNECTED
SOMEHOW.

WHY IS IT THAT EVERY WOMAN
WHO EVER CROSSES MY PATH
SOMEHOW GETS SUCKED INTO
THIS LIFE OF HEROES
AND VILLAINS?



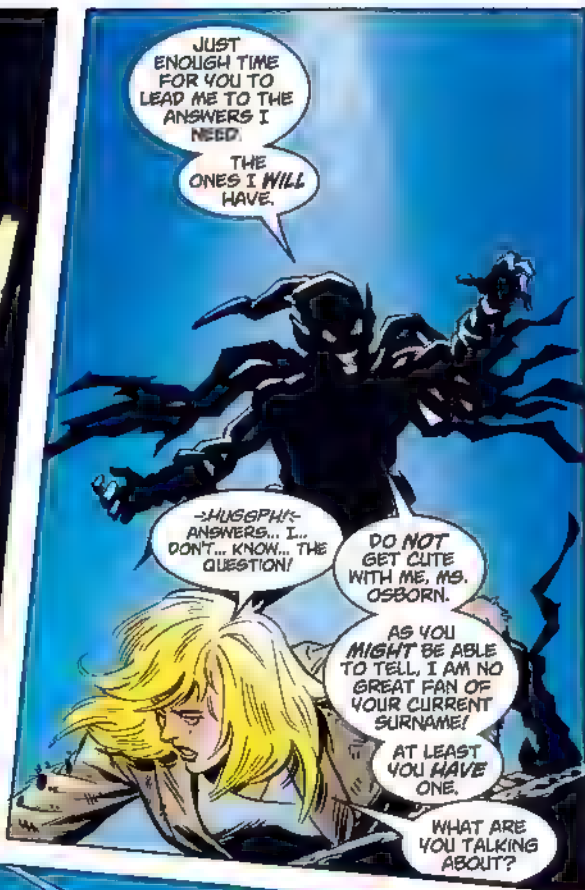
GWEN, MARY JANE,
BETTY, LIZ...

WHY?





LET'S FINISH THIS
UP HERE ON THE
BRIDGE!
THAT
SHOULD SETTLE
YOU DOWN FOR
A LITTLE
BIT.



JUST
ENOUGH TIME
FOR YOU TO
LEAD ME TO THE
ANSWERS I
NEED.

THE
ONES I WILL
HAVE.

-HUGGPH!
ANSWERS... I...
DON'T... KNOW... THE
QUESTION!

DO NOT
GET CLITE
WITH ME, MS.
OSBORN.

AS YOU
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO TELL, I AM NO
GREAT FAN OF
YOUR CURRENT
SURNAME!

AT LEAST
YOU HAVE
ONE.

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



YOU KNOW...
I HAVE NO
TIME FOR
THIS!

I'M JUST
GOING TO TAKE
YOU AND YOU WILL
SHOW ME HIS
FILES!

THE
OSBORNS
OWE ME THAT
MUCH!

BUT I'VE
GOT TO MAKE
SURE YOU DON'T
PUT UP A
FIGHT.

I DID
MENTION MY
GLIDER ISSUES,
DIDN'T I?



WHAT IS
THAT?
OH...



...IT'S YOU --
OOF!

YEAH...
SPIDER-MAN...
THAT'S ME!
AND
EXACTLY
WHO ARE
YOU?



AND THAT IS
THE QUESTION OF
THE DAY!
I GUESS,
FOR NOW, YOU
CAN CALL ME THE
GREEN --



NO!
I
WON'T!
YOU DON'T
SOUND LIKE THE
GOBLIN, DON'T
FIGHT LIKE THE
GOBLIN...

...AND I'VE
GOT TO TELL YOU,
SOME AMATEUR
WANNABE PUTTING ON
THE GREEN GOBLIN
COSTUME IS NOT
MAKING ME
HAPPY!

NOT TO
MENTION THAT
I JUST **BLEW** THE
CHANCE AT MAKING
ANY MONEY FROM
THE BUGLE!



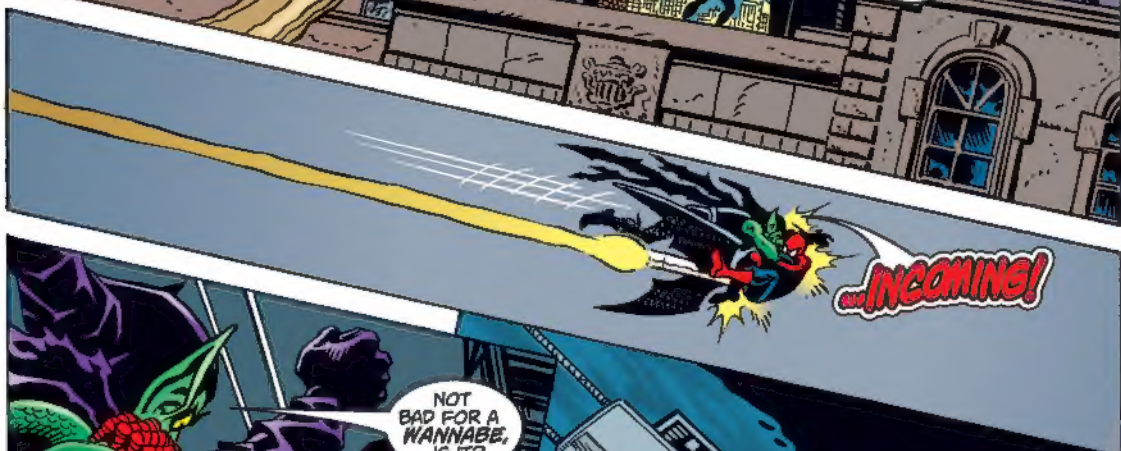
OKAY...
FINE, MISTER
SPIDER-MAN, I
GIVE UP!

I REPENT.

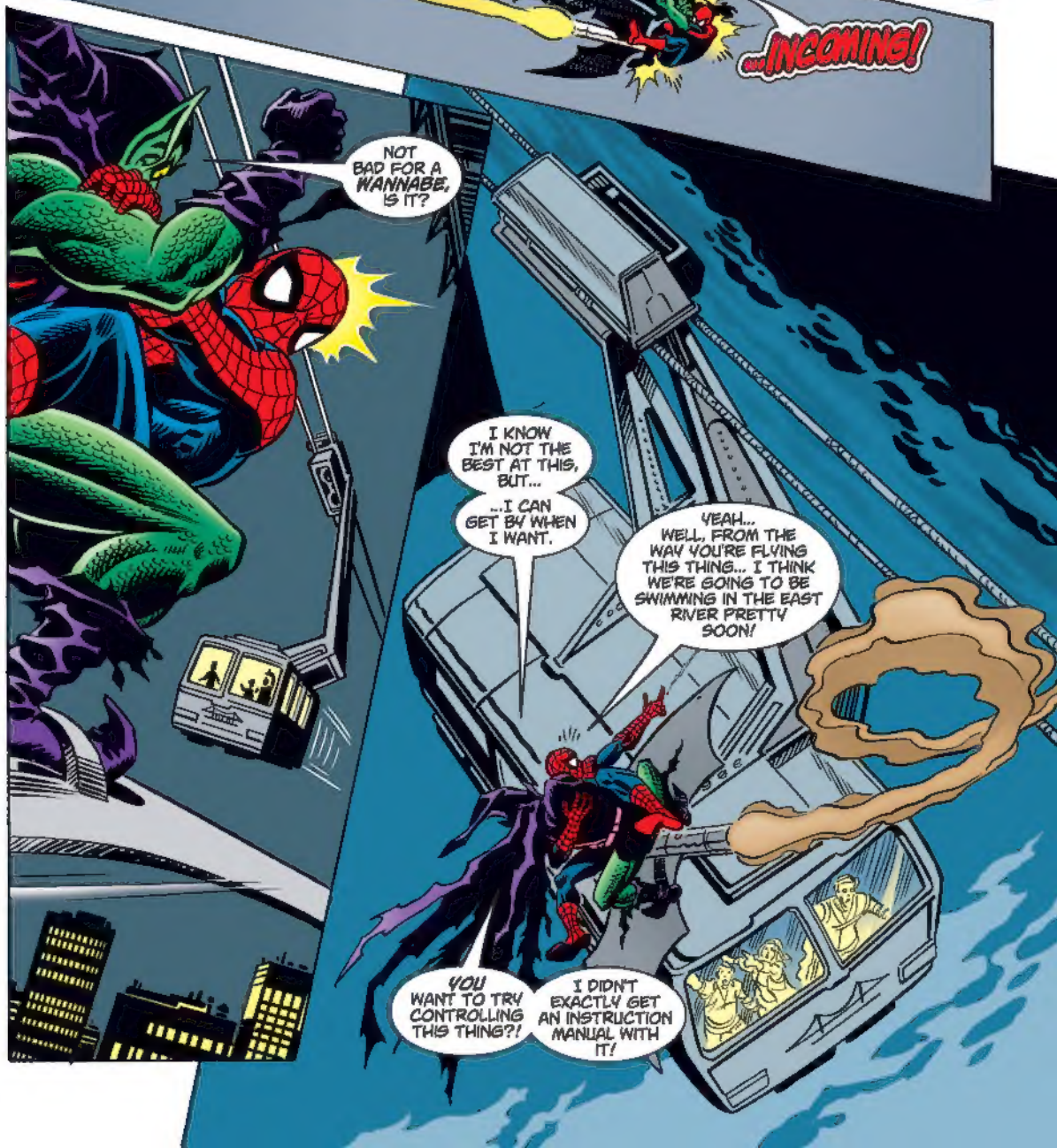
DON'T KNOW
WHAT I WAS
THINKING!

I'LL JUST
LEAVE, GO ABOUT
MY BUSINESS AND
NEVER BOTHER
YOU AGAIN.

OH,
BY THE
WAY...



...INCOMING!



NOT
BAD FOR A
WANNABE,
IS IT?

I KNOW
I'M NOT THE
BEST AT THIS,
BUT...

...I CAN
GET BY WHEN
I WANT.

YEAH...
WELL, FROM THE
WAY YOU'RE FLYING
THIS THING... I THINK
WE'RE GOING TO BE
SWIMMING IN THE EAST
RIVER PRETTY
SOON!

YOU
WANT TO TRY
CONTROLLING
THIS THING?!

I DIDN'T
EXACTLY GET
AN INSTRUCTION
MANUAL WITH
IT!



WHO ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS --?

DON'T START WITH ME!
I'VE BEEN HAVING A BAD YEAR!

YOU THINK THIS IS MY IDEA OF FUN?

SURE, IT'S GOT ITS MOMENTS, BUT --

-- WHAT AM I DOING?

DO ALL SUPER-HERO/ SUPER-VILLAIN BATTLES END UP IN POINTLESS EXPOSITION?

WELL, I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO ATTEND TO.

LET'S SEE IF I CAN REMEMBER HOW THIS GOES.

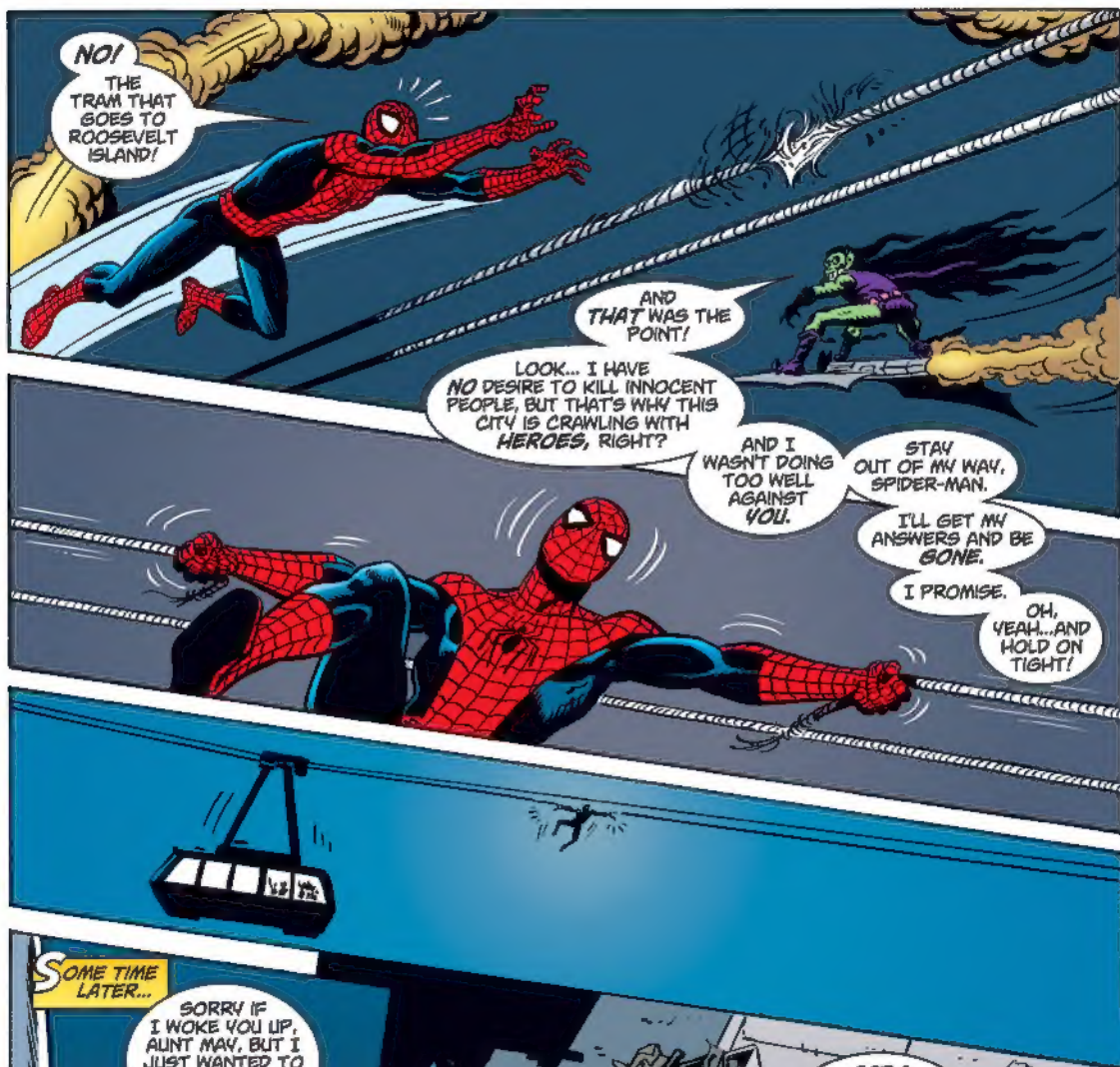
THUMB GOES HERE...



...POINTY END TOWARD THE TARGET...

...FLICK THE WRIST AND...

...RAZOR BAT AWAY!



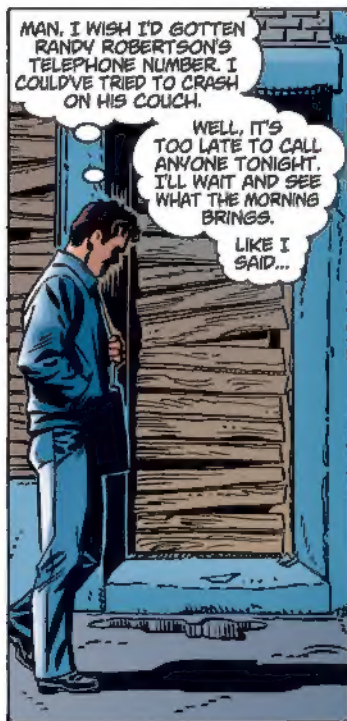


I SHOULD PROBABLY
HEAD OUT TO QUEENS
AND CRASH WITH
AUNT MAH, BUT...

...I DON'T
KNOW IF I COULD
BEAR SEEING AUNT
ANNA AGAIN.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW I
CAN EXPLAIN THAT
THINGS ARE GOING
TO WORK OUT.

MJ IS
ALIVE...
I KNOW
IT.



MAN, I WISH I'D GOTTEN
RANDY ROBERTSON'S
TELEPHONE NUMBER. I
COULDN'T TRIED TO CRASH
ON HIS COUCH.

WELL, IT'S
TOO LATE TO CALL
ANYONE TONIGHT.
I'LL WAIT AND SEE
WHAT THE MORNING
BRINGS.

LIKE I
SAID...



...THINGS
COULDN'T GET
WORSE THAN
THIS!



4 HOURS
LATER...



YAWN!

MAYBE I
SHOULD GIVE
GLORY GRANT A
CALL... SHE LIVES
SOMEWHERE
AROUND HERE,
I THINK!

SHE'D
PROBABLY
LET ME USE HER
SHOWER AND
CHANGE MY --



MY BACK-
PACK?!

WHERE --?



MY COSTUME AND
WEB SHOOTERS!
THEY'RE...

...GONE!

TO BE CONTINUED...